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BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Docket No. 1043 (Sub-No. 1)

**MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD.
DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE AND ABANDONMENT
IN AROOSTOOK AND PENOBSCOT COUNTIES, ME**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC July 7, 2010 HEARING
REGARDING DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE AND ABANDONMENT**

James M. Davis, Secretary
LEADers Encouraging Aroostook Development
PO Box 40
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(207) 498-2359 x2022
jdavis@pineshealth.org

Dated: June 24, 2010

**MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC RAILWAY, LTD.
DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE AND ABANDONMENT
IN AROOSTOOK AND PENOBSCOT COUNTIES, ME
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On February 25, 2010, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd, (MM&A) filed with the Board an application for permission to abandon 233 miles of track in northern Aroostook and Penobscot Counties, Maine. According to a release posted in the past three days, the Surface Transportation Board has rescheduled a public hearing on the above captioned matter to take place on July 7 in Presque Isle, ME.

(1) LEADers Encouraging Aroostook Development (LEAD) opposes this discontinuance and abandonment. (2) James M. Davis, Secretary of LEAD, wishes to address the Board for (3) approximately five minutes at the re-scheduled public hearing beginning at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, July 7, District Court House, 27 Riverside Drive, Presque Isle, Maine, in place of Virginia Joles, LEAD President. LEAD, a non-profit corporation comprised of approximately one hundred business and community members, was established in 1986 for the purpose of fostering and encouraging the balanced development of Aroostook County. This group of volunteers focuses on the economy, jobs, image, partnerships, promoting new and existing businesses, natural resources, and legislation.

The loss of this specific portion of the freight rail system will be devastating to the rural communities of Northern Maine. Twenty-two businesses, with an estimated 766 jobs, and 960 secondary jobs, are active rail shippers along the line, and discontinued or abandoned rail service will drastically affect others, including area farmers, retail businesses, local government, financial institutions, as well as the entire community.

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